



#1
A #5/B
PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: A-64411-2/RFT/RMS/RMK

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

) Examiner: Not Assigned
)

MEADE et al.

) Group: Not Assigned
)

Serial No.: 09/921,645

Filed: August 3, 2001

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

For: METALLIC SOLID SUPPORTS
MODIFIED WITH NUCLEIC
ACIDS

) I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited
) with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in
) an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner
) for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on October 5, 2001
)

Signed:

Mary M. Farland
Mary McFarland

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231
BOX: MISSING PARTS/FEE

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies the filing of a Notice to File Missing Parts of Application mailed August 29, 2001.

Prior to examination of the above identified application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

After page 35, please insert new page 36 as follows:

ABSTRACT

--The present invention is directed to solid supports having metallic surfaces comprising blocking moieties and modified nucleic acids, which exhibit excellent characteristics in hybridization assays, in a stable, reproducible, rapid manner. In an additional aspect, the invention provides methods utilizing the solid supports to hybridize probe nucleic acid to target nucleic acid and methods for detecting the hybridization complex.--

B1